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The Fern Hill Palace of the Maharajah of Mysore, Ootacamund, The Nilgiris, South India
August 8, 1959

TO AH
FCW 10/4/59
(second copy)

Dear Mr. Salat:

His Highness, The Maharajah, and I have noted with interest the news that you are scheduled to be in India for about three weeks starting in late September. Since we are interested in certain cooperative projects which are in line with UNESCO's aims, we feel that it might be useful and of mutual value to have some talks with you while you are here.

His Highness has asked me to check with you to see if you can arrange to put at least a brief visit to Mysore on your schedule. If you can, he will write you his personal invitation for a stay in Mysore as his guest. The chief problem is that the major festival here, the Mysore Dasara, falls this year from October 3 to 12, and during this period there would be no opportunity at all for discussions with His Highness at the Palace. However, in September, or immediately following the Dasara would probably be all right. You will judge best as to whether our talks should precede or follow your visits with officials in New Delhi and elsewhere. My feeling is that perhaps just at the end of your Indian visit would be the right time, when you will know how UNESCO's program here is expected to proceed.

Since we are as yet strangers to you, a little more information seems in order to help you understand our interest in you and UNESCO. First, I attach a background sheet about the Maharajah which indicates his official activities and his personal interests and talents. He has just returned from his first visit to the United States where he spent two and a half months lecturing on cultural subjects at such Universities as Yale, Chicago, Minnesota, Washington, and others; and meeting with the Rockefeller and other Foundations, and groups such as the Institute on Ethics of the Jewish Theological Seminary's Institute of Religious and Social Studies and the Asia Society in New York; the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in Boston; the American Council on Education and the Conference of Associated Research Councils in Washington, D. C.; and others. The trip was outstandingly successful and His Highness has been invited to return in February 1960 for further lectures at Harvard, Chicago, California, Stanford, UCLA and other educational institutions.

Second, I attach a background sheet giving you pertinent details about my work. I started from New York City in January 1958 (and incidentally my first stop was Paris where I joined my friends Bertrand and Lady Russell for the UNESCO ceremonies at which he received the Kalinga Award for the popularization of science...) on what I thought was to be a one-year world tour collecting a portfolio of information on Asian personalities, places and problems with which to try to "educate" American editors, broadcasters, publishers and travel people towards a more realistic approach to this area. I am now eight months and 12 countries behind schedule due to the fact that the Indian Government has toured me all over India, I have had several trips to Pakistan which included eye-witnessing the take-over by the new military regime there last October, and the Nepalese Government has had me in Kathmandu and environs - all unanticipated on my original itinerary. I came to Mysore last December for a brief visit with His Highness, got involved in helping him plan his American trip at the request of Ambassador Bunker, and am still working with him.

SEE AH memo to FCW of 10/4 for 3 days

This collaboration has resulted in our seeing a number of opportunities to increase East-West cooperation toward understanding at a non-governmental level, and we are currently thinking about just what machinery is needed here to implement some of these. We will be a little more certain about what can be done, when and how, by the time of your visit; hence discussions here might be mutually useful.

Personally, my interest in UNESCO has always been high, although I have always been frustrated over its seeming inability to communicate its story effectively to the mass public. This has been true even in the USA with all our media of communications, as you know. Having been an ILO consultant I of course know all about the limitations both within and without the UN agencies. Nevertheless, many of these obstacles can be overcome, as I have proven repeatedly in various projects handled through my office in New York at various times. The communications problem is equally important here in Asia. Ever since I have been in India I have been trying unsuccessfully to find out, for example, precisely what UNESCO's East-West program consists of. We have had the news that it exists, that officials and advisory committees and preliminary plans are active, but that is all. You will surely agree that there must be much more in the future.

We now read with interest of the UNESCO meeting scheduled for Bangkok in January in connection with "a world-wide survey to help the under-developed countries build up their press, radio, film and television facilities." This says little, but is intriguing, and we would like to hear more.

If there is information available about this meeting as well as about your East-West program, we would like an opportunity to study it prior to any discussions we may have with you on your visit here. Could you arrange to have any such pertinent material sent on to me here?

Now if what I have said herein interests you and if you will indicate as quickly as possible when you might be able to accept an invitation to Mysore, His Highness will be in touch with you directly. Meanwhile we anticipate your possible visit.

Cordially yours,

Julie Medlock

Mr. R. Salat
Director of Cultural Programmes
United Nations Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Organization
PARIS
France

Enclosures: background sheets,
HH and JM

CC to His Highness, The Maharajah of Mysore
The Palace, Mysore, India